

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-58

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DRAFTED BY AFR/CWR/SDE:JSNYDER:JAP

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF MALI COMMERCIAL FOOD CARGO AT DAKAR

ROME PASS STEVENSON/OSRO FROM DAA/AFR BROWN

REFS: (A) ROME 11057 (B) STATE 169374 (C) STATE 164756

(D) BAMAKO 2368

1. I REGRET TO LEARN THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME MISUNDER-
STANDING WITH RESPECT TO AID ACTIONS CONCERNING THE PRO-
TECTION OF MALI COMMERCIAL CARGO NOW ON HAND AT DAKAR.
IT IS NOT CORRECT THAT WE HAVE EVER, BY OURSELVES, INTENDED
TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OR ARRANGE FOR SUCH PROTECTION OR
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MOVEMENT.

2. OUR POSITION REMAINS AS I OUTLINED IN JUNE DURING OUR ROME DISCUSSIONS, THAT IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH PRECISELY SUCH SITUATIONS AS PROTECTION OF COMMERCIAL FOOD IN DANGER OF SPOILAGE BECAUSE OF RECIPIENT COUNTRY INACTION, OR INABILITY TO ACT, AND PROBABLE DIFFICULTY OF DONOR COUNTRIES TO UNILATERALLY FUND ACTIONS NOT INVOLVING THEIR OWN FOOD SUPPLIES, THAT OSRO MIGHT WISH TO ESTABLISH A SPECIFIC FUND WHICH COULD BE USED TO TRANSHIP, WAREHOUSE OR OTHERWISE PROTECT SUCH FOOD. WE VERY STRONGLY INDICATED OUR SUPPORT FOR SUCH ACTION AND ASKED FOR CONSIDERATION BY OTHER DONORS. I AM ADVISED THAT WE AGAIN REITERATED THIS

PROPOSAL IN BOTH THE COTONOU AND DAKAR MEETINGS, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, TO DATE, ANY RESPONSE FROM ANY OTHER DONOR.

3. IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER DONOR SUPPORT FOR A SPECIFIC FUND, I BELIEVE THAT FACED WITH NEAR-CERTAIN LOSS OF FOOD, THE REPLACEMENT OF WHICH PROBABLY MEANS ADDITIONAL DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD AND TRANSPORT FUNDS, IT WOULD NOT BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR OSRO TO CONSIDER UTILIZING SAHEL TRUST FUNDS FOR EITHER MOVEMENT OR PROTECTION. WHILE NOT INTENDED SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS NEED, IT IS IN THIS AREA OF EXTRAORDINARY FOOD LOGISTICS NEED THAT WE HAD IN MIND PROVIDING THE LAST USG CONTRIBUTION OF DOLS 1 MILLION TO THE TRUST FUND.

4. IN ANY CASE, IT DOES APPEAR, BASED ON OUR REPORTING FROM BAMAKO AND DAKAR, THAT IF WE WAIT FOR THE GOM TO ACT, THERE WILL BE A LOSS OF UP TO 28,000 MT OF FOOD AT DAKAR NOW AT RISK UNDER TARPS.

5. BEYOND THE ISSUE OF FUNDING, IF YOU BELIEVE THERE IS SOME WAY IN WHICH WE MAY EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT FURTHER OSRO INITIATIVES WITH THE GOM TO ENCOURAGE THEIR POSITIVE RESPONSE, WE WILL BE PLEASED TO CONSIDER SUCH ACTIONS.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CURRENT VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THIS SITUATION.
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DECONTROL: 12/31/74. KISSINGER

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